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November 15, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



Attention: Box PCT - DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

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| FORM PTO-1390 (REV 5-93) | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <u>32232-152197</u> | |
| TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 | | | | U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/423746 | |
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| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP98/02828 | | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE May 7, 1998 | | PRIORITY DATES CLAIMED: May 14, 1997 | |
| TITLE OF INVENTION - see attached pages - | | | | | |
| APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US - see attached pages - | | | | | |
| Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(I). | | | | | |

- See attached pages for additional data -

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